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September 19, 1997

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VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Re: BPOU Perchlorate PRPs

Dear Lewis:

Enclosed certain newspaper clippings relevant to additional perchlorate PRPs. They reflect the fact that confiscated fireworks were burned in the ALR pit in 1981 through 1983. We believe that this practice was in place for many other years. Fireworks are a traditional user of perchlorate.

Sincerely,

PK

Peter R. Taft

PRT:mlp
Enclosure
[403009.4]



EXPENSIVE TEST—Enthralled spectators watched \$250,000 worth of confiscated fireworks erupt in a sparkling orange ball of fire Tuesday as firefighters tested two methods for disposing of the contraband.

Tribune Photo by Michael Goulding

Two Big-Bang Theories Tested

By TOM SCHRADER
Tribune Staff Writer

No one, including fire officials, knew what to expect in Azusa Tuesday before the fuse was lit on \$250,000 worth of confiscated fireworks.

What witnesses saw was an impressive blast — a fiery orange ball sparkling with exploding fireworks. Gray and black smoke billowed upward hundreds of feet, mushrooming and blocking the sun.

"I never knew it would burn that hot or that fast," said El Monte Fire Chief Charles Masten. "What a demonstration of what this stuff can really do. It's awesome."

Masten said area fire departments were left "holding the bag" after an accident July 29, 1980, in San Diego in which three military bomb disposal experts were killed while transferring hundreds of pounds of Mexican-made fireworks from a storage bunker to a truck.

The cache exploded and the victims were burned beyond recognition.

Until then, military explosives experts had helped dispose of seized fireworks: after that, it was considered too hazardous.

Masten said the problem became even more urgent two years ago "when we confiscated six tons of fireworks in the city and drove them all over, and back, because no (facility) would accept them."

This year Covina and Azusa fire officials developed a plan, endorsed by the fire chiefs association, for

disposing of the fireworks which were seized from throughout the county. An Azusa rock and gravel company donated a site.

A 50-foot-long, 5-foot-deep trench was dug in the bottom of the gravel pit and the fireworks — 2.5 million firecrackers, 850,000 bottle rockets, huge aerial bombs and safe and sane displays — filled it to the top.

The mound was covered with chicken wire to keep burning fireworks from being scattered by any explosions, doused with diesel fuel and set afire with flares tossed by Azusa Fire Capt. Bill Franklin. Within moments the roaring fire ignited the explosives.

Witnesses — mostly news crews and fire officials — said it was like seeing an atomic blast.

About 30 minutes later another assortment of fireworks, encased in a concrete pipe, was doused with fuel and torched in a comparison test. This method produced a confined and reduced explosion.

Covina Fire Chief Carl Johnson said that if fireworks have to be disposed of in the future the concrete pipe method probably will be used "because it just seems safer."

He said several agencies in Orange and San Bernardino counties wanted to participate but "we told them to wait — that we had to find out how it would go. It went well."

The project was coordinated by Johnson and Battalion Chief George Stillwagon from Covina and Chief John Littlefield and Capt. Franklin from Azusa.

Supervisors Re-Fund Fractured Slashed County Health Ser

San Gabriel Valley Tribune

8-12-81

P. A3

By SARAH BOTTORFF
Tribune Staff Writer

County supervisors re-funded a tiny portion of county health services slated for cutbacks Tuesday,

a separate Hahn motion to use \$7 million in unanticipated property tax revenues to refund health care services whose cutbacks have prompted a series of

spread out among health programs which the board had earlier ordered eliminated. Supervisor Mike Antonovich was the sole dissenting

all prescriptions for county hospital outpatients, (out-patient hospital pharmacies have been closed) and \$235,000 to reopen some closed hospital clinics.

Sta

(Continued)

tion bond issue construction. A line tax was increased in 1972 in 1963.

Federal money in 1956, mainly and federal highway.

With gasoline the price low a flowing, the adopted the Freeway-Express called for construction 12,400 miles of ways to connect persons and a farm and resort.

Only about 1 been built — or rethinking of 1972 in the administration of Gov. Ronald Reagan.

way Department down project is "There was part of the department that the department had way-over terms of planning.

Gianturco says. Then came oil embargo, double petroleum prices crippled the economy this day.

As the price and consumption actually decreased. That's tax, the main revenue, is charged has not increased gasoline has so.

Thus, revenue slightly. In 1970 brought in \$700 million the total was \$1 billion.

Meanwhile, highway construction costs to ly, about 18 percent last six years Commission passed 1970 highway

Local News

Deukmejian To Defeat

By TOM WALDMAN
Staff Writer

An optimistic George Deukmejian predicted in Industry Wednesday night that he would overtake Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley during the weeks of the gubernatorial race the way he overtook L. Mike Curb in the primary last June.

"We are doing what we did in the primary — moving in high gear to the end," said the state general at a \$250 per plate fundraiser. "This is showing up the polls and surveys."

Deukmejian joked that he would Los Angeles voters would back him on Nov. 2 what New City voters did to Mayor Ed Bradley in the recent Democratic gubernatorial primary in New York.

"The people in New York liked Koch so much they didn't want him to become governor," Deukmejian said. "If the folks want to keep Bradley in L.A., fine with me."

The Republican candidate for governor devoted most of his speech to an attack on the record of Edmund Brown Jr., rather than on his opponent.

"There is a dismal lack of competence throughout the state," Deukmejian added. "It's a disaster."

He said Brown's policy of

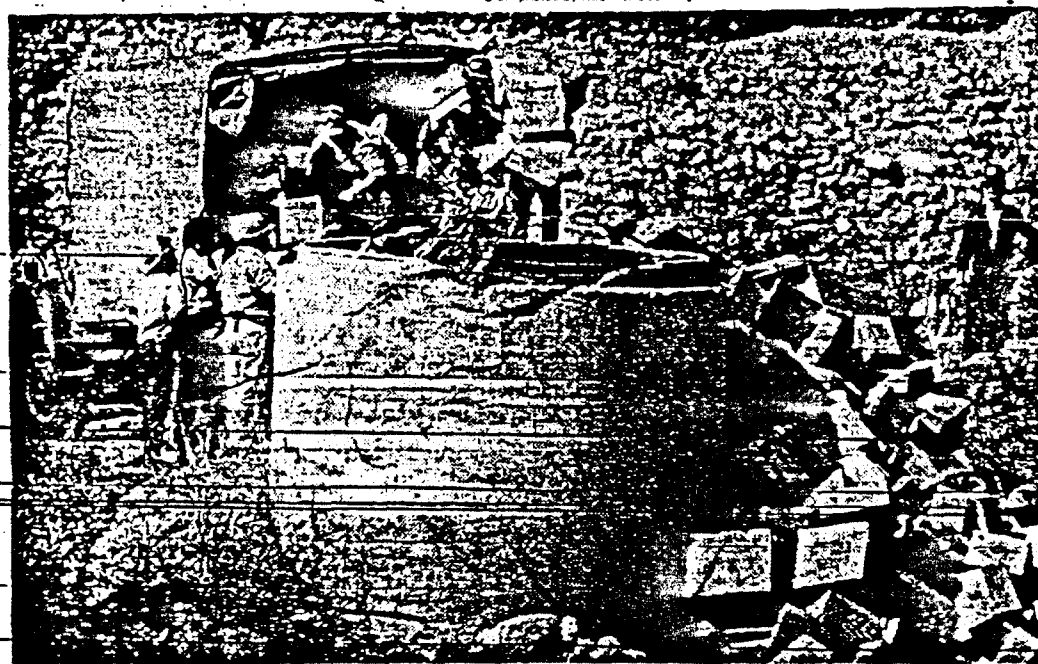
Local Candidates To Appear in

Five San Gabriel Valley candidates are among a number of dates and Latino celebrities scheduled to attend a "get out the vote" rally Friday at the Plaza de la Cultura in Los Angeles.

Local candidates participating in the event are state Sen. Montoya, D-El Monte, who is running in the 26th district; Rep. "Marty" Martinez, D-Irwindale, a candidate in the 31st district; Esteban Torres, Democrat hopeful in the 34th Congressional District; Charles Calderon, Democratic candidate in the 59th Assembly District and Mike Reza, Democratic nominee in the 52nd Assembly District.



Staff photos by Michael Goulding



BLAST OFF — Thousands of fireworks of all kinds are taken from trucks, bottom photo, and placed in a cement tube at Azusa Land Reclamation Co. where they were detonated, shown in photo at left, and the result was a rather spectacular display despite the fact it was daylight. The fireworks were confiscated by police and fire departments throughout the county before, during and after the Fourth of July holiday and their demise Tuesday morning was coordinated by the Los Angeles County Chapter of the California Fire Chiefs Association. Fire departments in the area received many calls when the fireworks were destroyed.

RTD to Help Cities Spend

\$71 Million Transportation Windfall Will Be Divided Between

San Gabriel Valley Tribune

10-14-82

P. B1

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assemblyman Bruce Young, D-New
walk, will give the district attor
the right to inspect weight cer
cates on file at public weighmaster
stations — which include landfills.
The effect of this measure, passed

Young's bill allows the DA to
obtain the documents and use them
in any criminal or civil action
against haulers. Specifically written
into the regulation, however, is a
restriction against the agency using

inspections only under the direction of
the CHU. He regular checks on
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citations.

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Illegal Fireworks Detonated

Confiscations Partly Credited For Loss Decline

By TOM SCHRADER
Staff Writer

It was as if a mini atomic bomb
had been detonated in Azusa
Tuesday when firefighters from
several agencies gathered for
what has become an annual event
— the destruction of fireworks
confiscated by authorities during
the year.

With a call of "fire in the hole,"
county Fire Department Engi-
neer Bill Franklin tossed two
lighted flares into a concrete pipe
that had been filled with 300 cases
of legal and illegal fireworks
valued at \$500,000.

Franklin then ran to a waiting
car he hoped wouldn't stall near
the pipe at the Azusa Land Recla-
mation Center at Gladstone
Street and Vincent Avenue.

At 10:45 a few minutes, but at
about 10:45 a.m., "firecrackers
started to pop from inside the
reinforced pipe and then the 100
or so firefighters and media rep-
resentatives were treated to a
Fourth of July display that was
brilliant even in the daylight.

A thick column of fire rolled at
least 200 feet into the air and was
followed by a plume of smoke
which extended another 300 feet
skyward before it moved to the
northwest and dissipated.

The heat was intense even from
a distance of 250 yards.

Robert King, chief of the Mon-
tebello Fire Department and vice
president of the Los Angeles
County Chapter of the California
Fire Chiefs Association, said the
destruction of the explosive de-
vices was the result of coopera-
tion between several agencies.

He said that because of enforce-
ment and media campaigns fire-
works-related fires and injuries
have been reduced the past three
years.

Although complete figures have
not yet been released by the state
Fire Marshal's Office, the Los
Angeles County Fire Department,
which serves 44 of the 82 cities
and all unincorporated areas, ex-
perienced a dramatic reduction,
he said.

The fire loss recorded by the
county department over the past
Fourth of July holiday period was
\$247,615 compared to \$394,055 the
year before. In 1981, the loss was
\$400,204 and in 1980 it was \$534,
130. The local countywide loss in
1982 was almost \$1 million, com-
pared to \$4 million in 1981.



MAYBE THE Poor At Ti

By STEVE T/
Staff Wri

Gus Salazar was
many as 100 people to
West Covina Senior
last week to discuss
needs in the East Sa-
ley.

Instead, there were
in attendance at the
one of a series of w
held to gather input
tents on public transp

"I don't think it's i
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Why residents in t
Valley can't get from
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Covina, Los Angeles
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The other cities in t
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Glendora, Irwindale
Heights and La Puente

Al Hollinden of DA
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To Salazar, who is b
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An even better way
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The phone surveys at
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San Gabriel Valley Tribune

10-19-83

P. B1

A COLUMN WRITING — A thick plume of smoke
pipe which was stuffed with 300,000 worth of illegal fireworks
confiscated from throughout the county and destroyed Tuesday at an
Arusa at. Currently done by West Covina officers, but a CHP officer
must be on hand to formally issue citations.

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of his critics support of the li committee, to oppose the e, Hills Land- undary of the

is feelings on earing on the the county The HHIA rd he did not mtee repre- of the whole l that he sup- unitation Dis- union.

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ged Gray to r step down, Donovan say- intinue to lose this internal

made the oval, the pres- debate on the allegations. d to silence n't discuss the inquired his knowledge this nformed by a nce who also erience.

up the gavel, question and n his ouster. o-thirds of the ve, and Gray inimum 8 to 4

meeting was list, vice pres-

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omination for ard was ap- meeting. Also 4 nominating Baca, Briess- andy Johnson, ay McQueen, nd Gary Wal- filled at the

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the destruction of firework confiscated by authorities dur, the year.

With a call of "fire in the hole," county Fire Department Engi- neer Bill Franklin tossed two lighted flares into a concrete pipe that had been filled with 300 cases of legal and illegal fireworks valued at \$500,000.

Franklin then ran to a waiting car he hoped wouldn't stall near the pipe at the Arusa Land Recla- mation Center at Gladstone Street and Vincent Avenue.

It took a few minutes, but at about 10:45 a.m., firecrackers started to pop from inside the reinforced pipe and then the 100 or so firefighters and media rep- resentatives were treated to a Fourth of July display that was brilliant even in the daylight.

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Robert King, chief of the Mon- tebello Fire Department and vice president of the Los Angeles County Chapter of the California Fire Chiefs Association, said the destruction of the explosive de- vices was the result of coopera- tion between several agencies.

He said that because of enforce- ment and media campaigns fire- works-related fires and injuries have been reduced the past three years.

Although complete figures have not yet been released by the state Fire Marshal's Office, the Los Angeles County Fire Department, which serves 44 of the 81 cities and all unincorporated areas, ex- perience a dramatic reduction, he said.

The fire loss recorded by the county department over the past Fourth of July holiday period was \$342,815 compared to \$394,065 the year before. In 1981, the loss was \$609,306 and in 1980 it was \$834,130.

The total countywide loss in 1982 was almost \$2 million com- pared to \$4 million in 1981.

"Through the concerted efforts of fire service agencies in this county, with the cooperation of the police agencies, District At- torney's Office and the federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau, we have made a signifi- cant contribution to the safety and well-being of the people of this county," King said.

The fireworks destroyed today



A COLUMN RISING — A thick plume of smoke rises from a concrete pipe which was stoked with \$500,000 worth of illegal fireworks confiscated from throughout the county and destroyed Tuesday at an Arusa gravel pit. The show was spectacular even in the daylight.

would have been out on the street. They are not only illegal fireworks, they are dangerous ones."

Only "Safe and Sane" fire- works, labeled as such by the state Fire Marshal's Office, can be sold or used in California and many cities and counties have restrictions.

Any firework that explodes or can be fired in the air is illegal. "The Fourth of July is the busiest time of the year for every fire agency," King said. "The problem will continue as long as fireworks are shipped into this state. Many of the fireworks de- stroyed today are legal in other states and were brought here for resale," he said.

one of a series of held to gather input dents on public trans "I don't think it's is interested," said human resources di Covina. "Maybe, it couldn't get here (to Why residents in Valley can't get fire another is precisely Covina, Los Angel seven other Valley e nearly \$110,000 for a on local transit need The other cities in are Azusa, Baldwin Glendora, Irwindale Heights and La Puente Al Hollinden of D, Inc., the Anaheim the study, was not turnout at last week ing in the Senior Cl Cortez Park.

During the work told the audience, "people show up, but do show up have a lot

To Salazar, who is nate the study, the ance was a surprise, people we invited wo said. "We told every couldn't make it, to w that's what they'll do.

An even better wa out and touch some Consulting is planning than 2,000 residents cities and unincorp areas involved in it and ask them about p

The phone surveys meetings are part of of the study. Another that phase, the interv ed and appointed go cials, is nearly com said.

After the informa process is finished, S next step will be to existing transit pro area. Then, he said, f made on what new p implemented to me needs.

Money for such p come from the Propos the cities and the c

Tents Won

By LORI MEDGO Staff Writer

Using tent cities a county's overflow of n be more trouble and they are worth. Under ore, Van Minden told Board of Supervisors Tu Von Minden's return

Deadly Snake in The Lettuce Only A Mo

San Gabriel Valley Tribune

10-19-83

P. B1 cont.